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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6584
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7157
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0650
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7097
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1639
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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

"Persistent Fears of Second 9/11 Terror Attacks"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (12/29): "As long as Osama bin Laden—the mastermind behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks that took the lives of some 3,000 people—is alive and well, terrorist attacks by (members of) al-Qaida remain a serious threat. In this regard, the fact that a suspected (terrorist) managed to board a Detroit-bound airliner wearing an explosive device poses a grave problem. ... A terrorist attack on a plane is not an issue that a single country can prevent alone. ... Without close international information-sharing and cooperation, (these types of attacks) cannot be prevented. Needless to say, the ROK is not (exempt from participating in) this international cooperation."

STEPHENNS